

and we say, "If you believe in the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, if you're willing to work hard and show up tomorrow and play by the rules, you're our kind of American. You're part of our future." We want to build a bridge that you can walk across because we'll be stronger, too. We'll be stronger, too.

So I want to ask you—that's what this election is all about: a bridge to the future or a bridge to the past; a bridge to the future wide enough that we can all walk across or everybody trying to build their own little bridge and say we're on our own. I believe that my wife was right; I think it does take a village. We're better off when we help each other.

I believe that there is no country in the world—I don't just believe it, I know this—there is no country in the world as well-posi-

tioned for the 21st century as the United States. But we have to make some fundamental decisions. Do we really believe in opportunity for all, responsibility from all? Do we really believe that everybody who is willing to work hard has a part in our American community? If we believe that, and we're willing to build that bridge, America's greatest days are still ahead.

Will you help me build that bridge?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Thank you, and God bless you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:26 p.m. in the college gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Robert L. McSpadden, president, and Dawn Roberts, student activities board president, Gulf Coast Community College.

Statement on the 1997 North Atlantic Treaty Organization Summit *September 6, 1996*

Today, at my request, Secretary of State Christopher called for a NATO summit next year to take the next steps on adapting and enlarging the NATO alliance and preparing it for the 21st century.

At the last NATO summit in Brussels in January 1994, my fellow NATO heads of government and I set out an ambitious agenda to adapt NATO to the opportunities and challenges of the new century. We agreed that NATO would take on new roles and missions in pursuit of peace. We agreed to strengthen the European pillar of the alliance to promote greater European responsibility and burdensharing. And we agreed to reach out to Europe's new and emerging democracies through creation of the Partnership For Peace and by moving, steadily and deliberately, to add new members to the alliance. We were determined to end the cold war division of Europe and create, for the first time in history, a Europe united in peace, democracy, and free market prosperity.

The results are impressive: NATO already has taken on new roles and missions. The alliance's successful IFOR operation in Bosnia, undertaken with broad participation by non-NATO members, has brought peace to that beleaguered

country. NATO is reshaping its military side to make it better able to take on new missions while strengthening the European defense role within the alliance. We are continuing to deepen and enhance the Partnership For Peace, which has created unprecedented links between NATO and the nations of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. And we are intensifying our efforts to build a strong partnership between NATO and Russia. NATO has also been making great strides in its preparations for enlargement, holding intensive consultations on the requirements and responsibilities of membership with many of Europe's emerging new democracies.

I believe that NATO heads of government should meet in the spring or early summer of next year to take the next decisive steps. This summit would invite the first group of aspiring NATO members to begin accession talks to bring them into the alliance. It would announce a major enhancement of the Partnership For Peace. It would also finalize work in adapting the NATO military structure to provide a more distinctive European role with full Allied participation. Finally, the summit would, we hope,

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confirm establishment of a broad and deep NATO-Russia partnership for the long term.

I call on my fellow NATO heads of government to join with me in this endeavor. Together, we can make this summit the most historic and

forward-looking in the history of our NATO alliance, furthering our vision of an undivided Europe, and building a bridge of peace and security, democracy and prosperity to the 21st century.

Statement on the Tentative Agreement Between the International Association of Machinists and McDonnell Douglas

September 6, 1996

I am pleased that the International Association of Machinists and McDonnell Douglas have reached a tentative agreement and congratulate both parties for working around the clock to settle their differences at the bargaining table. McDonnell Douglas workers are among the best defense workers in the world and I am hopeful that the 6,700 workers that have been on strike will be back at their jobs soon. I also commend

Representative Gephardt for initiating this round of talks and for keeping both sides at the table.

When labor and management work together to resolve their differences, the company and the workers benefit. In this case, all Americans will benefit from having an experienced workforce back at their jobs, filling critical aerospace orders for our military.

Message on the Observance of Rosh Hashana, 1996

September 6, 1996

Warm greetings to everyone celebrating Rosh Hashana in this season of redemption and renewal.

On this holy occasion, the resonant sound of the shofar summons Jews around the world to remember and reflect upon the triumphs and tragedies of the previous year. This call, celebrating the year 5757, asks all of us, Jews and non-Jews alike, to reassess and appraise our lives and to seek deeper understanding of ourselves and the world around us. During this time of

introspection, Jews pray for a sweet new year, symbolized by dipping bread and fruit in honey.

In this age of possibility and promise, let all who celebrate this holiday work to strengthen the bonds that tie person to person, neighbor to neighbor, and community to community. As we continue our efforts to broaden and strengthen the fragile Middle East peace, let us pray for a brighter world for our children.

Best wishes for a joyous Rosh Hashana and for a healthy and peaceful new year.

BILL CLINTON

Remarks at a Reception for Representative Pete Peterson in Panama City

September 6, 1996

Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you for being here. Thank you for waiting for us. You have no idea how hot it was in that rally. [*Laughter*] I'm surprised we've got the skin on

our—[*laughter*—it was wonderful. It was wonderful, as Lawton said, seeing the crowds coming in.